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O.R.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
Year Ending 31st March, 1946.

I have honour to submit herewith a report upon Public Health Services in the District for the year 1945 - 46.

1. Staff.

The Council's Health Department is staffed by a part-time Medical Officer, a full-time Sanitary Inspector, and a clerk. With this small staff it is not possible to carry out any major system of inquiries, and upon the anticipated resumption of our Housing work interrupted by the War, augmentation of the staff will be necessary.

2. Area.

The District of 7,494 acres is of semi-rural nature, the villages of Kirk Merrington, Middlestone Moor, and Byers Green being situated some distance from the main centre of population.

3. Population.

The Registrar General's figures calculated for the District give the resident population as 18,070. This figure shows a slight decrease upon the previous year.

4. Housing.

The standard of housing in the District has deteriorated considerably during the War Years, owing to difficulty in obtaining much needed repairs. In addition, approximately 300 houses which were subject to Ministry inquiry before the War are still occupied. Large areas of property are also congested, and a large number of ashlosets and similar receptacles do not improve the environment of the population. It is therefore with great pleasure that I can record the energetic progress made by the Council in their re-housing programme since the resumption of this work. Work is now in progress upon the Archer's Field and Park Estates for the provision of 66 pre-fabricated houses in Archer's Field, and 112 permanent brick type houses, 100 B.I.S.F. and 88 Lamella Houses on the Park Estate. The Council, anticipating shortages of recognised building materials, made early provision for the substitution of the traditional style of house by others, such as the "Airey", the "Lamella", and the Steel House. The Council are also arranging for further housing upon the York Hill and Tudhoe Moor Estates.

The occupation of the Park Estate and Archer's Field Estate will to a certain extent relieve the additional overcrowding caused by the return of Service personnel with their families into the District. Our further housing schemes, it is anticipated, will alleviate long-standing cases of overcrowding, and supply accommodation to take the place of the houses demolished in our slum clearance programme. The number of inhabited houses in the District is approximately 5,158.

5. Tuberculosis.

During the year an increase of 13.46% in pulmonary cases and an increase of 5.55% in non-pulmonary cases has been recorded. Cases remaining on the register at the 31st March, 1946, were as follows:-

Pulmonary	Males	56	Non-Pulmonary	Males	37
	Females	62		Females	39
		118			76

6. Scabies.

Scabies is a notifiable disease in the District. During the year 66 notifications have been received. The Council also operate a Cleansing Centre for free treatment of these cases, and during the year 201 cases received the first treatment and 349 cases the second or subsequent treatments.

Scabies (Contd)

In addition the Council have agreed to treat cases from part of the Crook and Willington Urban District, also the Sedgefield Rural District, the Council receiving reimbursement from the respective Districts for this work.

7. Disinfestation.

Appropriate disinfestation has been carried out of premises and furniture of all cases notified. The Council have also continued their policy of disinfecting furniture of all new tenants prior to removal into Council property.

8. Rodent Control.

The Council now employ the services of a qualified rodent inspector, and considerable progress has been made in the eradication of vermin in Council property, sewers, and private and business premises in the District. Major type infestations have received early treatment, and it is anticipated that within a few months all major and minor infestations known to the Council will have received attention. Rodent infestation is, however, widespread throughout the District, but the number of rats on the sites is small.

During the period of the rodent inspector's work the following have received treatment:-

<u>Premises Treated.</u>	<u>Estimated Kill.</u>	<u>Bodies Found.</u>
Shops 31)	790	300
Private Houses 53)		
Stables etc ... 33)		

9. Water.

The District is served by a piped supply from the upland gathering grounds of the Durham County Water Board. The quality of the water has continued to be good, with the exception of sediment due to encrustation in mains, and inadequate supplies in the Kirk Merrington Area. These defects have been communicated to the Board, and the necessary scraping and flushing have resulted in improved supply to most property. The Kirk Merrington District, however, continues to receive a poor supply of water. Regular analysis of water is carried out by the Board.

10. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Sewage of the District is treated at the Council works situated at Tudhoe and Byers Green, also the joint Sewage Works at Leasingthorne. A considerable number of choked drains at private dwellings have been reported during the year, and upon opening out, the drains in many cases have been found to be in a defective condition. During the year, the Council having agreed to contribute £3 - 10 - 0 towards the cost of each approved conversion. 34 applications for this grant have been approved, and 33 conversions carried out. These numbers are, however, small, considering that of 5,120 receptacles in the District, 3,940 are of the dry ash type. A considerable number of these closets are, however, in property which will subsequently be dealt with under the Housing Acts.

11. Ambulance Service.

During the year this service has continued to show a considerable increase in the calls for the use of the ambulance by the public. 459 cases have been conveyed by the ambulances to and from hospitals in the surrounding Districts. 13,127 miles were covered in these journeys and the sum of £379 was received by the Council in payment for this work. Many expressions of appreciation of the comfort and efficiency of the service were received. The acquisition of a new Austin ambulance has proved of great value.

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12. Diphtheria Immunisation.

Now that the work and expense of diphtheria immunisation is shared with the County Council there is every prospect of a great improvement in the number of cases immunised. Our results so far are not satisfactory, but it is hoped that with the active co-operation and participation of the County Welfare staffs the numbers will be satisfactorily increased.

Particulars of the position at the 31st December, 1945, are given below.

	<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>5 - 15 years.</u>
(1) Estimated number of children residing in the area, 31st Dec. 1945	1,660	3,286
(2) Total number of children immunised, 31st Dec, 1945.	300	1,830
(3) Percentage of child population considered to be immunised at 31st December, 1945	18.07%	55.69%
(4) Number of children immunised during the year 1945.	150	23

Statistics of the District.

Year ended 31st March, 1946.

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Birth Rate.</u>
Legitimate	148	179	327)	19.70
Illegitimate	11	18	29)	
<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
Legitimate	5	7	12)	.77
Illegitimate	2	-	2)	

The Birth Rate in England and Wales.

Live Births 16.1 per 1,000 population.
Still Births .46 " " "

District Death Rate.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>
Deaths	122	91	213	11.78

Infantile Mortality.

All infants per 1,000 births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality.</u>
Legitimate	10	6	16)	Rate. 43.24
Illegitimate	-	-	-)	

The Death Rate for England and Wales during the year was 11.4 per 1,000 population.

The infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for the same period was 46 per 1,000 live births.

Summary of infectious disease deaths.

Deaths from	Diphtheria	...	2
"	Tuberculosis	..	14
"	Pneumonia	...	4

S.V. TINSLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

The first and only of the following
 is the County Council's report on the
 improvement of the water supply. Our report
 is not a recommendation, but it is a statement
 of the facts and figures of the water supply
 and it will be a statement of the facts.

The following is the position of the water supply in 1945, as given
 below.

(1) Estimated number of children residing in the area, 1945	1,650	2,284
(2) Total number of children residing in the area, 1945	200	1,630
(3) Percentage of white population estimated to be in the area of the area, 1945	10.0%	55.6%
(4) Number of children estimated during the year 1945	150	55

Estimated of the water supply
 Year ended 31st March, 1945.

White Births	Total	Female	Male
12.70	323	175	148
	20	10	10
Still Births	Total	Female	Male
1.77	10	7	3
	2	-	2

The birth rate in the area and the
 live births 16.1 per 1,000 population.
 still births 1.77 per 1,000 population.

White Births	Total	Female	Male
11.78	313	175	138

Infantile Mortality
 All infants per 1,000 births.

White Births	Total	Female	Male
45.24	10	6	4

The death rate per 1,000 and also during the year was 11.4
 per 1,000 population.
 The infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births
 period was 45.24 per 1,000 live births.

Summary of infantile mortality
 Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births
 Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births